

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants are submitting the present Amendment without prejudice to the subsequent prosecution of claims to some or all of the subject matter which might be disclaimed by virtue of this paper (although none is believed to be), and explicitly reserve the right to pursue some or all of such subject matter, in Divisional or Continuation Applications.

I. CLAIM STATUS AND AMENDMENTS

Claims 4-6 were pending in this application when last examined and stand rejected.

Claims 4-6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional application on any cancelled subject matter.

New claims 7-29 have been added that better conform to U.S. claim form for apparatus and method claims.

New claims 7-12 correspond to and incorporate the subject matter of previous claims 4 and 5. Further support for new claim 7 can be found in the disclosure, for example, at page 5, line 30, to page 6, line 21. Further support for new claim 8

can be found in the disclosure, for example, at page 6, line 23, to page 7, line 29.

New claims 12-28 corresponds to and incorporates the subject matter of previous claim 6. Further support can be found in the disclosure, for example, at page 7, line 30, to page 11, line 12.

New claim 29 is an apparatus comprising both the devices of new claims 7 and 8 and previous claims 4-6.

No new matter has been added by the above claim amendments.

Claims 7-29 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 4-6 were objected for containing numerous informalities for the reasons on pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

The present amendment overcomes the objections by cancelling the previous claims and adding new claims that better conform to U.S. practice.

Thus, withdrawal of the claim objections is solicited.

III. 101 AND INDEFINITENESS REJECTIONS

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being improper method claims for: lacking proper method steps and being drawn to both a method and process for the reasons on page 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons on pages 3-5 of the Office Action.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 4-6 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 7-29. The new claims better conform to U.S. claim form and are more clearly process or apparatus claims. The claims are thus clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

The rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal therefore is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

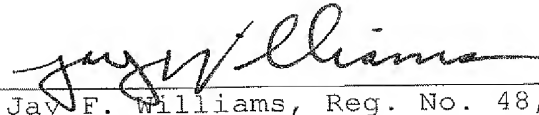
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jay F. Williams", is written over a horizontal line.

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